

Town of Branchville  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 14, 2016

The regular Council meeting for Town of Branchville was held on March 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. A notice was placed on the door of the Town Hall with the time, date, and place of the meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor H. Franklin Dickson. Mayor, Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Council Member Roll called indicated that all members of council were present by Clerk Metts.

Guests were welcomed by Mayor H. Franklin Dickson.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Councilman Blankenship made the motion to approve February 8, 2016 minutes. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve February 17, 2016 minutes. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve February 22, 2016 minutes. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Reports:**

**1. General Fund:** Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to approve the financial reports. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**2. Water and Sewer:** Councilman Dukes made the motion to approve the financial reports. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**3. Municipal Court:** Councilman Ott made the motion to approve the financial reports. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Community Development Block Grant:**

Grant to help with waste water consent order. Sign on March 10th. Asking for \$825,000 to improve waste water plant for town. From the consent order, the town was fined \$9660 by DHEC. Ready needs grant has only \$600,000 for the state to use.

**"Swipe Card":**

Clerk Metts reported that the card swipe is available for use, but customers must come inside the office for credit card security. Will not be able to do through the drive up window. Receipts will be printed and given to customer before they leave or it can be emailed to them.

**Police:**

Councilman Dukes deferred this to new business

**New Business****Data from LSCOG (Local Income Survey) Grant:**

William Metts from Metts Engineering mentioned that a requirement for Grant funding is 51% low to moderate income. Dept of Commerce has reported that the Town of Branchville is just below the 51% mark that what we need to apply. Sewer system does not supply to all the community. There are some people that do not have sewer. We have been allowed to survey the people of Branchville that have sewer under our waste water system. Designate someone to talk to individuals at homes. Must have survey to request for application must be done April. Mayor states we can not afford any more fines for the town. Asking for help from the town's people to complete this survey. 0.49% from having to do survey. Mayor mentioned that we are not asking for money, but help to complete this survey.

**Police Body Camera Policy:**

Councilman Dukes made motion to adopt the Police Body Camera Policy. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Lights at the Playground:**

Councilwoman Bryant request more lighting to be installed at the playground and HealthPlex for safety of children while games are being played and people coming out of the gym at night. Mayor Dickson asked Clerk Metts to contact Roy Judy with SCE&G to schedule a meeting to get more information about light placement. Motion was made by Councilman Dukes to table this decision until further notice. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Lead and Copper water samples:**

Alvin Jeffcoat has been hired to help town with consent order and take care of waste water plant. 2014 town had 10 sites that test water for lead/copper and 10 that DHEC were high. Resampling this week. If those samples come back good, sampling will be done again later in the year. DHEC has mentioned that the sampling has been done improperly. 3 different times that drinking water samples were pulled, and samples were good. Houses build before 1986 have a higher content because of pipes. Flushing spigots for about 20-30 seconds for reduce the build up. If these samples come back bad; you, the people will be notified.

**Chemical Feed at Waste Water:**

Alvin Jeffcoat reported that the waste water is running better. John Michael Collins redid the chemical feed into the waste water plant.

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Councilman Dukes. Seconded Councilwoman Bryant for council to go into executive session. Motion carried. Council went into executive session @ 6:35pm.

Council returned from executive session @ 7:30pm. Councilman Ott made the motion to return to the regular meeting. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Dickson said that while council was in executive session they discussed a personnel matter that no decision had been made.

**Public Comments-Agenda Items:** none at present time

**Public Comments-Other Items:**

Betty Glover questions the trash contract. Councilman Blankenship states that town is losing money under the old trash contract. There will be no price increase for customers with the trash contract.

Levena Williams asks about the renovation of old depot structure. Mayor mentioned that funds from street scapes can be used on signs, building improvements but not inside projects, sidewalks.

Charles Bamberg asks when the mosquito spraying will start since there is a lot of standing water.

Gregory Oliver asks about changing the inside of old freight depot, will it loose the historical value. Mayor has mentioned that Metts Engineering has said that freight depot is structurally sound.

Gregory Oliver asks about property beside freight depot.

Vivian Fogle asks about lights on Buttes St and lights on "L" curve on Hughes St where accidents have happened.

Mayor mentioned that roads and intersection improvements.

Clerk Metts acknowledges the success from the Playground Committee with the shoe fund. The certificate will be framed and place in office.

Betty Glover introduced Reverend Spann from Zion AME church.

**Items of information:**

Rural Water meeting on 3/15/16 was requested by Harry Wimberly

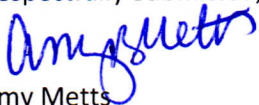
USDA meeting on 3/24/16 will be about grants for the town.

Meeting with Mrs. Merrell is regarding a SLED matter from previous years.

Park sign by Councilman Ott the sign must have their logo on the sign and must be placed on fence. We hope to have the sign by the week of the week.

**Adjournment:** Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Dukes seconded the motion. The motion carried. The regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Metts

Clerk of Court in the absence of Jenny Elliott, Town Clerk/Treasurer